**Soft on Crime PTX DA**

A. Uniqueness - Debt ceiling is at a compromise now, political capital must be maintained. Hartford Sentinel April 13:

Hartford Sentinel, 4-13, 11, http://www.hanfordsentinel.com/news/opinion/todays\_opinions/article\_69434200-65ec-11e0-938a-001cc4c002e0.html

**Think of the fight over spending for the current fiscal year as Act 1 in a three-part budget drama. Act 2, coming this spring, will be the fight over whether to raise the ceiling on the federal government's debt**, and what conditions to attach to it. **Act 3,** in the fall, **will likely be the biggest battle of all, over the federal budget for 2012.** But before the rest of the story can play out, politicians on both sides needed a clearer answer to one crucial question: How big a mandate for spending cuts did voters really intend to give Boehner and his fellow conservatives?There are four competing narratives about what the voters wanted when they went to the polls in November. And we can't truly move ahead until that debate is resolved."Tea party" activists and their allies in Congress, like Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., say the voters gave them a mandate to shrink the government dramatically. Mainstream conservatives, including Boehner, are a little more cautious; they think they have a mandate to cut spending, but they're not sure how far the writ extends.President **Obama and other** pragmatic **Democrats acknowledge that the Republicans won the argument last year over government spending, at least among the independent voters who swing elections. So now they're casting themselves as budget cutters too** - but arguing for more modest cuts that would spare most of the pet programs of independents and Democrats.Finally, there are the unreconstructed liberals, who think last year's voters simply made a bad choice and will soon wake up and ask for Nancy Pelosi back. Polls tell us the extremes on both ends are wrong and the negotiators in the middle are right. The main thing voters want is a better economy with more jobs. They've accepted the argument - made by leaders of both parties - that the federal deficit must be reduced to keep the economy strong. But they don't want deep cuts to federal programs, especially in education and healthcare. Do voters endorse the tea party's solutions? The polls say no. Several surveys have found the number of people who say they agree with the tea party has dropped below 1 in 4. Among Democratic voters - and perhaps most important, among independent voters, who often decide how elections come out - more than two-thirds favored compromise, not confrontation.Those numbers suggest that Obama, even though he's been on the defensive, may emerge with his chances for reelection improved. He has cast himself as a centrist mediating between squabbling congressional leaders - a role that, if he succeeds, should improve his standing among independents. Still, it's a long time until the 2012 election, when **Obama will need that political capital. And Acts 2 and 3 of this budget drama are still to come.** The conventional wisdom is that **those fights will be much bloodier. If it takes this much pain to close a relatively minor funding gap, how much harder will it be to produce a budget for an entire year?** **But there's a minority view that's more optimistic. It holds that Act 1 has served a useful purpose, by showing that a deadlock hurts everyone. That lesson might improve the chances for centrists** like Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., **to broker compromises on the bigger issues ahead.** There's no guarantee of that kind of positive outcome. But if politicians in both parties have paid attention to voters' reactions to their squabbles, they may feel more pressure to find their way to the middle.

B. Link - Going soft on crime tanks political capital on both sides of the aisle – Emerson 07:

Robert Emerson – Judging Delinquents: Context and Process in Juvenile Court. Transaction Publishers, 2007 - 293 pages. Page 36. http://books.google.com/books?id=Gk0Wmw7Sw9MC&dq=juvenile+%22political+capital%22&source=gbs\_navlinks\_s

On one level, pressures on the court are characteristically restrictive and punitive rather than therapeutic in nature because "**public opinion" becomes aroused primarily by "crime in the streets" and threats to public order**. **Hence** local demands are for control and punishment, not for treatment for sick or unfortunate children. This tendency at least partially reflects the organization and expression of such "community sentiment" by politicians and the news media. The press tends to play up sensational and brutal crimes and to encourage responses to "criminals" on punitive terms. Periodic press-inspired crime waves, for example, give rise to a variety of demands for heavy penal sanctions against offenders. But in addition, **many local politicians** seem to feel that they can **make greater political capital out of opposing "crime in the streets" with a "get tough" policy than in advocating the rehabilitation of offenders.** Particularly when crime or delinquency becomes a hot issue, punishment and restriction seem to provide direct, simple, and convincing solutions. Hence, **when concern with the problem of delinquency becomes pronounced, the politically oriented tend to denounce "leniency" and the "coddling" of criminals, and to urge harsh punishment for violators**.

C. Impact - Failure to raise the debt ceiling collapses the dollar and destroys global financial markets. Business Week April 13:

Business Week, April 13, 2011, <http://www.businessweek.com/investor/content/apr2011/pi20110413_386877.htm>

To understand how the debate over raising the debt ceiling could affect the U.S. economy, one must understand the underpinning of American economic power**. Since World War II, the U.S. has enjoyed unprecedented dominance of the global econom**y. Today—and for several decades to come—**the U.S. is the world's largest economy**. Sometime in the first half of this century, China's gross domestic product is likely to exceed U.S. GDP. Even when that happens, American per capita income will well exceed China's per capita income.

**The** other **pillar of American economic strength is the U.S. dollar, long the world's reserve currency.** As owner of the global reserve currency—essentially the one that all central banks must hold—the U.S. is able to borrow in dollars rather than in another country's currency. **For a nation with more than $14 trillion in national debt, the capacity to borrow in our own currency is an enormous benefit and privilege**. **Should the federal government be unable to borrow more dollars, government spending will** essentially **slow to a trickle**. Cash raised through taxes would be used to provide essential services. In all likelihood, **the U.S. Government would be unable to pay its debt.** While **such a failure** to repay federal debt would be applauded in certain quarters, it **would send shock waves through the global financial markets.**

Shock waves emanating from the largest economic power would send the world economy into chaos. This drastically increases the likelihood of nuclear war – Mead 09:

Walter Russell Mead, a great American citizen, 2/4/2009, Only Makes You Stronger, The New Republic, p. http://www.tnr.com/politics/story.html?id=571cbbb9-2887-4d81-8542-92e83915f5f8&p=2

None of which means that we can just sit back and enjoy the recession. History may suggest that financial crises actually help capitalist great powers maintain their leads--but it has other, less reassuring messages as well**. If financial crises have been a normal part of life** during the 300-year rise of the liberal capitalist system under the Anglophone powers, **so has war. The wars of** the League of **Augsburg and** the **Spanish Succession**; the **Seven Years War**; the **American Revolution**; the **Napoleonic Wars**; the **two World Wars**; the **cold war**: The list of wars is almost as long as the list of financial crises. **Bad economic times** can **breed wars**. Europe was a pretty peaceful place in 1928, but the Depression poisoned German public opinion and helped bring Adolf Hitler to power. **If the current crisis turns into a depression, what rough beasts might** start **slouch**ing **toward Moscow, Karachi, Beijing, or New Delhi** to be born? **The U**nited **S**tates **may not**, yet, **decline, but**, **if we can't get the world economy back on track, we may still have to fight**.

AT: AC Decreases Crime, Solves PC

1. Empirically denied—my evidence compares deterrence to successful; rehab programs like the AC’s and concludes that only hard on crime earns political capital.

2. Their evidence requires public knowledge of crime rates reducing, but none of their evidence speaks to public awareness. Even if rehab is a better way to achieve what the public wants and rewards with political capital, my evidence indicates they never become aware of rehab’s successes, so it’s still bad.

3. Their case requires an after-the-fact evaluation to figure out whether crime really dropped, how far into the future, and whether capital is gained. That means I get at least a marginal net benefit on timeframe because my gains come instantly—we decry soft treatment and gain capital, whereas theirs is years down the line.